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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**GROUP OF SPECIALISTS -EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS  
14-15 MARCH 2011 STRASBOURG  
ROOM 14, PALAIS DE L'EUROPE**

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**Draft Resolutions**

*Document prepared by  
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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**I. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Piatra Craiului National Park (Romania)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 on the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip(2006) 10 on the award of the European Diploma to the Piatra Craiului National Park;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14-15 March 2011;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 27 September 2021 the European Diploma of protected areas to Piatra Craiului National Park;

Attaches the following recommendations to the award:

1. To complete the ongoing process of approving the new management plan by the end of 2011.
2. Secure the budget of the diplomed area so that the PCNP Administration be able to manage it appropriately and get all financial resources needed in order to pay the staff on a regular basis ;
3. Complete the construction and the equipment of the headquarters, especially the exhibition room and other tourist accommodations as soon as possible and make particular efforts raise the appropriate funds ;
4. Elaborate and implement a specific high profile program devoted to the promotion, preservation and restoration of the local landscape and architecture ; this exemplary program should be performed with the relevant specialists and contribute to make this region, the paragon of the preservation of natural and cultural heritage ;
5. Pursue the scientific works and monitoring of biodiversity in the whole PCNP ; those activities should assess the status and tendencies of species and habitats, considering the diplomed area as part of a functional ecosystem and consequently use appropriate methods and indicators that keep the PCNP Administration aware of the global changes of this ecosystem ;
6. Pay more attention at both, central and local forest service levels, on the enforcement of the forest law on the fringe and in the surroundings of the diplomed area ; the measures taken and the results obtained should be reported to the Council of Europe, on an annual basis;
7. Pursue the efforts made by the PCNP Administration on addressing the litter and garbage issues and to engage a new phase of activities that could be facilitated by this Administration ; a

detailed report on the results of those activities should be sent to the Council of Europe every two years .

## **II. Draft resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip (2008)1 on the Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip (2006) 9 on the award of the European Diploma to the Gran Paradiso National Park;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14 and 15 March 2011;

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park until 27 September 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

The park management plan must be formally approved as soon as possible.

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. Ensure that funding is chiefly provided by the state and the regions and provinces, with minimal use of own resources;
2. Create a post of deputy director to enable the director to deal with essential tasks, especially in strategic terms;
3. Actively defend the inclusion of measures to safeguard natural and landscape assets in town-planning proposals and decisions;
4. Integrate forests' value as ecosystems in the development of forest management plans;
5. Continue to foster farming activities' compatibility and synergies with biodiversity preservation;
6. Avoid all new projects for the catchment of water resources for electricity generation, apart from mini-hydroplants duly authorised by the park.

### **III. Draft resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Vanoise National Park (France)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip (2008)<sup>1</sup> on the Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (76) 14 awarding the European Diploma to the Vanoise National Park;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14 and 15 March 2011;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Vanoise National Park until 18 March 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

Ensure there is a buffer zone consistent with the conservation of natural assets, particularly those located in the core area of the park.

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. Pay close attention to natural and landscape issues when development projects are carried out in the periphery of the park and avoid any direct or indirect impact on the central area;
2. Co-ordinate the park's objectives with the green and blue infrastructure objectives, and vice versa;
3. Ensure that nature and landscape protection interests are fully taken into account when making decisions concerning water resources and the renewal of hydro power concessions;
4. Actively pursue the diagnostic and management measures ensuring that the park's agricultural uses mesh harmoniously and are in synergy with protection of its natural assets;
5. Continue to strike a balance between the reception and service functions of refuges and refuge-gates, on the one hand, and their information and awareness functions, on the other, by pursuing the development of facilities for categories of visitors who should be paid special attention, such as people with disabilities;
6. Supervise and strictly regulate air sports to reduce their adverse impact on the fauna.

#### **IV. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 on the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (86) 18 awarding the European Diploma to the Bayerischer Wald National Park;

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 13 and 14 March 2011;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Bayerischer Wald National Park until 18 June 2021;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. Finalize the Management Plan and have it adopted by the state authority by 2012. Secure on a long-term basis the current policy of non intervention in large zones of the park and continue the corresponding scientific monitoring
2. Pursue consequently non intervention policy for 75 % of the forests the old part of the park and progressively implement it in the new park, following the agreed upon objective of achieving the same ration by 2027.
3. Continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle development outside of the park, but limiting it strictly to the buffer zone (or "bark beetle management" zone)
4. Pursue and develop the dialogue with the local communities; develop the synergies with the Bayerischer Wald Nature Park and assess together the potential for the reestablishment of the Biosphere reserve according to the Sevilla strategy.
5. Pursue the collaboration with the Sumava National Park and develop further synergies. Prepare a joint document "vision for the Bohemian Forest" including all the protected areas adjacent to or included in the national parks as an umbrella document leading to a coordinated management and zoning system. Secure together a large joint core zone on both sides of the border.
6. Maintain and the public transportation network "Igelbuss", secure its financial sustainability on the long-term and possibly develop it across the border in cooperation with Sumava National Park.

**V. Draft resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve (France)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip (2008)<sup>1</sup> on the Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 awarding the European Diploma to the Camargue National Reserve;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14 and 15 March 2011;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve until 28 March 2021;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. Maintain, when updating the management plan for the period 2011-2016, the high quality of previous plans, taking account of recent developments in the context of the National Reserve, and secure the adoption of the Charter of the Regional Natural Park of Camargue;
2. Study the possibility of reviving co-operation with other deltaic sites awarded the European Diploma (such as the Doñana National Park or the Danube reserve);
3. Ensure the strict application of limits on discharges of agricultural water into the reserve, particularly into the Vaccarès lagoon and pursue co-operation with the rice growers in accordance with sustainable development principles;
4. Initiate studies for the biological control of invasive species, including plant species such as *Jussiaea* or *Baccharis*, and provide the resources needed for their mechanical or manual control;
5. Grant sufficient additional resources, both financial and human, in particular with a view to enlarging the reserve, whose borders should be at least those laid down in the law of 1976, so as to guarantee its management, surveillance and scientific monitoring;
6. Give a higher profile to the European Diploma and the work of the Council of Europe, particularly in information provided at public reception points and in leaflets on the Camargue National Reserve.



**VI. Draft of Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park (Turkey)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (76) 15 awarding the European Diploma to Kuşçenneti National Park;

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 14-15 March 2011;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to Kuşçenneti National Park until 14 March 2021;

Attaches the following conditions to the renewal:

General condition

Maintain and enhance the National Park's ornithological, ecological and landscape values.

Specific conditions

Main Specific conditions :

1. Regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park and carry out annual censuses particularly at Siğirci Delta and Koçocay Delta;
2. Submit any development project regarding the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities for a rigorous impact study, the conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe ;

Other Specific conditions :

1. Monitor continually the water quality of the Lake and of the streams flowing into it ;
2. Continue the control pollution caused by poultry and livestock farming ;
3. Ensure the natural fluctuations of the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer ;
4. Finalise the revised edition of the management plan and implement all actions and conditions found therein.

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. Increase the number of staff to meet the exigencies of the park's enlargement.
2. Employ a full-time ornithologist to carry out the necessary census work and carry out investigations on the park's bird population dynamics;
3. Set up a small unit on the southern shore of the lake (in the Koçocay Delta area) for the protection of the area.

**VII. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (Finland)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 on the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 30 awarding the European Diploma to the Tammisaari Archipelago National Park;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park until 19 June 2021;

Attaches to the renewal the following recommendations:

1. Finalise within 5 years the approval process of the management plan(master plan) including the enlargement of the National Park and made all efforts to implement all the items;
2. Inform the Secretariat of the results of the State of the park reporting which will be made on a regular period of 5 years;
3. Continue the management of habitat types and species ; particular attention should be paid to :
  - the inventory of marine habitats and the development of the methods involved
  - the restoration and nature management
4. Continue to pay close attention to the recreational facilities and educational issues, in particular:
  - improve the safety, quality and amount of infrastructure
  - develop customer service and interpretation
  - raise the public awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park
5. Renew the regulations of the National Park
6. Deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism.

**VIII. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Seitseminen National Park (Finland)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe;

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 on the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 29 awarding the European Diploma to the Seitseminen National Park;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Seitseminen National Park until 19 June 2021;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. The new master plan for the Seitseminen National Park should be implemented . Around the year 2014 evaluate if there is a need of a new plan or updated plan.
2. Inform the Secretariat of the results of the State of the park reporting which will be made on a regular period of 5 years;
3. The restoration plans for both mires and forests should be continued as well as grazing of meadows
4. Metsähallitus should continue bring together the community of people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster knowledge transfer. Scientific research should actively continue.
5. The cooperation with local stakeholders especially local nature tourism entrepreneurs should be deepened.
6. The necessary funding should be provided to continue to refresh periodically the recreational facilities. Customer services and nature interpretation should be developed furthermore.

**IX. Draft resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes-Fagnes Nature Reserve (Belgium)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip (2008)1 on the Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 awarding the European Diploma to the Hautes-Fagnes Nature Reserve;

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site managers;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes-Fagnes Nature Reserve until 28 March 2021;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. Finalise, by 2015, the updated management plans for the reserve as a whole and provide the human resources necessary to this end;
2. Pursue the restoration of the peatland areas using the new techniques developed under the LIFE programme;
3. Continue to acquire privately-owned plots of land and classify those of significant ecological value as publicly-owned nature reserves;
4. Continue to raise awareness of the nature reserve's European significance among local inhabitants, peripheral municipalities and decision-makers;
5. Continue and intensify the efforts to safeguard the black grouse in co-operation with the relevant European partners;
6. Guarantee the sustainability of the measures taken under the LIFE Programme, which have had a very positive effect by providing the reserve with sufficient financial and human resources.

**X. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 on the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of protected areas;

Having regard to Resolution (71) 21 awarding the European Diploma to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve;

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve until 21 September 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. To draw up a management plan within 5 years at the latest in order to guarantee the preservation of the reserve and the cohesion within the larger unit of the nature park.

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. In case of changes in the management of the area the leading role of the VVS (Verschönerungsverein für das Siebengebirge), whose work to date has been fully satisfactory in the eyes of the Council of Europe, should be maintained ;

2. The new financial concept must be developed together with the local communes and the Rhein-Sieg-District;

3. The financial support should continue to be provided by the North Rhine Westphalia government ;

4. To maintain great vigilance regarding the possible construction of new roads;

5. Minimise disturbance caused by traffic on all roads crossing the Siebengebirge area, consider the setting up of a system of public transport ;

6. Continue investigating the possibility of extending the wilderness area to guarantee the preservation of the natural beauty, features, resources and biodiversity of the Siebengebirge as a protected area;

7. Continue and extend the scientific research.

**XI. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 on the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip( 2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 awarding the European Diploma to the Peak District National Park;

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site managers;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Peak District National Park until 28 March 2021;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. Complete the review of the national park management plan and continue implementation of the plans and strategies which sit below it ;
2. Secure and enhance the management of existing important key conservation habitats in farmland, especially hay meadows, wetlands, limestone dales and remaining areas of lead mine rakes, particularly through advice and brokerage of agri-environment schemes in conjunction with appropriate partner organisations ;
3. Halt and reverse the past degradation of heather moorland and blanket bog through moorland management plans, agri-environment schemes and the Moors for the Future Partnership;
4. Step up measures to address the decline in breeding populations of priority bird species particularly lapwing, curlew and snipe on farmland ;
5. Negotiate agreements to secure appropriate management of ancient and semi-natural woodland sites;
6. With partners implement actions to achieve the targets and objectives set out in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan 2011 – 2020;
7. Maintain at least 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land in favourable or recovering condition on Authority-owned land. In addition, implement measures on Authority-owned land to maximise their contribution towards nature conservation and cultural heritage objectives;
8. Carry out conservation and community work at a landscape scale through an integrated area-based management approach;

9. Implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the national park and continue to work with partner organisations, local communities and English Heritage to achieve targets;
10. Continue to provide encouragement to small scale economic schemes linking conservation of the environment of the Peak District to economic benefit;
11. Only authorize extensions of existing mineral workings to meet essential national needs if the minerals are not available elsewhere or are needed to provide traditional building materials in the park; seek restoration of mineral sites to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the National Park;
12. Continue to develop tourism activities in a way that protects and enhances both the interests of the community and environment and supports the economy; ensure that the park's authority meets the requirements of an application for the European Charter for sustainable tourism; increase the proportion of visitors using sustainable methods of travel;
13. Increase opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park.



## **XII. Draft Resolution on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Sumava National Park (Czech Republic)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 on the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14 and 15 March 2011;

Having noted the agreement of the Czech Government;

After deliberation,

Solemnly awards the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Sumava national park which forms with the neighbouring Bayerischer Wald national park a unique forest zone in the middle of Europe susceptible to host and demonstrate natural forest dynamics and ecosystem processes;

Places the aforesaid area under the patronage of the Council of Europe until..... 2021;

Attaches the following conditions to the award:

1. A management plan including a coherent management zoning system is prepared for the next 10 years period and is adopted by the Czech authorities in 2012 at the latest. A proper Park Declaration is adopted and, if appropriate, a revision of the Czech legislation in order to include the management zoning into the plan is undertaken.
2. The plan, the zoning and the activities allowed in the different zones are negotiated with and approved by the local authorities. The objective of keeping at least 40% of the territory without intervention should be clearly stated.

Attaches the following recommendations to the award:

1. The collaboration with the German counterparts should continue and the synergies further developed. In particular, the joint scientific research projects should continue; special effort should be put on the translation of information materials.
2. Need assessment and feasibility study should be undertaken in order to develop a public transportation system in or around the park.
3. A branding system with certification for goods and services, similar to the "National park Partners" in Germany, should be established as a marketing tool for the region.
4. The state should continue its effort to by of exchange municipal forest land located inside or close to the core zone of the park.
5. The responsible authority should undertake all possible measure to decontaminate the former military land bordering the park and to allow the return of farming and grazing activities as tool to maintain the biological diversity of this open or semi-open landscape.

6. Comprehensive environmental impact assessment regarding the construction of a chairlift in the Smrcina areas should be undertaken and alternative solutions should be actively promoted.

**XIII. Draft Opinion on the postponing of the decision regarding the award of the European Diploma to the Sumava National Park**

The Group of specialists on the European Diploma of Protected areas, meeting in Strasbourg on 14 and 15 March 2011;

Having considered the report prepared following the on-the spot appraisal (T-PVS/DE (2011) 10);

Acknowledges the European importance of the National Park;

Notes that the situation has significantly improved during the last years and that the park administration has developed clear ideas regarding the future management of the Park;

Notes with interest the development of an outstanding cooperation with the Bayerischer Wald National Park;

Recognizes however that the current local and national political climate does not offer sufficient guarantee regarding the long term management and the preservation of the park and that some essential management instrument are missing;

Decides that the Sumava National Park can be awarded the European Diploma as soon as the following preconditions have been met:

1. A management plan including a coherent management zoning system is prepared for the next 10 years period and is adopted by the Czech authorities in 2012 at the latest. A proper Park Declaration is adopted and, if appropriate, a revision of the Czech legislation in order to include the management zoning into the plan is undertaken.
2. The plan, the zoning and the activities allowed in the different zones are negotiated with and approved by the local authorities. The objective of keeping at least 40% of the territory without intervention should be clearly stated.